



FEMA

Recovery News

November 28, 2006
DR-1664-HI (NR-12)

Media Contacts:

FEMA: News Desk, (808) 546-8091

State Civil Defense: Dave Curtis,
(808) 566-2759

SBA: Ron Foss, (916) 768-4891

THREE WEEKS LEFT TO REGISTER FOR FEDERAL DISASTER AID

HONOLULU, Hawaii — With the deadline just three weeks away, officials urge homeowners, renters and business owners of The Big Island who sustained losses due to the October 15 Kiholo Earthquake to register for assistance now, if they have not already done so. Anyone still waiting on an insurance settlement, contractor's estimate or any other part of the process is encouraged to register regardless of whether this information is yet available.

The deadline for registering for aid under President Bush's disaster declaration is Friday, December 22, 2006, according to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State Civil Defense.

Don't delay. Register by logging onto www.fema.gov or by calling toll free **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **1-800-462-7585 (TTY)** for the hearing and speech impaired, from **6 a.m. to 6 p.m.** (local time) Monday through Friday.

"We want to be sure that anyone who might be eligible registers before the deadline," Lee Rosenberg, federal coordinating officer, said.

"If you are waiting for an insurance settlement, you should register now because after the settlement, you may still have unmet needs that may be eligible for federal or state programs," said Ed Teixeira, state coordinating officer.

If you have already registered and have questions about your application, call the helpline at 1-800-621-3362. Make sure to have your registration number available.

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FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses. Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal Rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 1-800-323-8603.

SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged

personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

State Civil Defense coordinates state-wide emergency preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation programs for a wide range of natural and human-caused threats and disasters including terrorism. As part of its responsibilities, State Civil Defense manages state and federal grants provided to local communities for disaster recovery and mitigation.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident, initiates mitigation activities and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA works closely with state and local emergency managers, law enforcement personnel, firefighters and other first responders. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.